
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Time: 12:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA SPRING TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the commercial spring troll fishery:

The spring troll areas and Terminal Harvest Areas (THA) listed below **will remain open until further notice:**

Ketchikan (101-29)	West Behm Canal (101-90)	Neets Bay THA (101-95)
Clarence Strait (106-20)	Steamer Point (106-30)	Ernest Sound (107-10)
Anita Bay THA (107-35)	Port Armstrong THA (109-11)	Frederick Sound (110-31)
Chatham Strait (112-12)	Hidden Falls THA (112-22)	Sitka Sound (113-41)

The spring troll areas listed below will be open according to the following schedule. All areas will open at 12:01 a.m. of the opening date and close at 11:59 p.m. of the closing date. The openings may be extended if the Alaska hatchery contributions are high. Information on extensions will be given in a future news release.

Ketchikan Areas:

West Rock (101-21)	May 16-17
Point Alava (101-41)	May 18-19
Kendrick Bay (102-10)	May 13-15

Petersburg/Wrangell areas:

Sumner Strait (105-41)	May 13-15
Snow Pass (106-41)	May 16-18

Chatham Strait areas:

Little Port Walter (109-10)	May 16-18
Tebenkof Bay (109-62)	May 14-16

North Chatham Strait, Icy Strait and Pelican areas:

Lisianski Inlet (113-95)	May 14-16
Port Althorp (114-50)	May 14-16

The following areas will open May 13-19:

Hawk Inlet (112-65)	Stag Bay (113-97)	Cross Sound (114-21)
South Passage (114-23)	Homeshore (114-25)	Point Sophia (114-27)

Sitka area:

Western Channel (113-01)	May 14
Redoubt Bay (113-30)	May 14-15
Salisbury Sound (113-62)	May 14-16

District 8:

Stikine River Directed Fishery (108-41) May 14-16 (see 5AAC 29.095. District 8 KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN for the area descriptions).

District 11:

Taku River Directed Fishery (111-31, -40) May 14-16 (see 5AAC 29.097. District 11 KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN for the area descriptions).

Initial openings in other spring troll areas will be announced in future news releases. The Biorka Island and Goddard Area will open during the week of May 20.

CODED-WIRE-TAGGED FISH

The heads of all adipose fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are sold [5 AAC 29.140 (b)]. Permit holders who freeze their catch onboard are asked to contact the department prior to fishing so that sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed. An Exemption Permit is required to allow the removal of heads from Chinook salmon harvested in the spring areas prior to delivery.

CATCH REPORTING

It is extremely important to keep fish caught in different fishery areas separated so that accurate dockside sampling can occur by department personnel. In order to maximize the harvest of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon in the spring fisheries, catches must be reported accurately. If more than one area or fishery is fished, or fish are kept for more than one period, each troller and tender is required to keep and report these catches separately on separate fish tickets (5AAC 29.130). The fishery name and the fishery area number must be reported on all fish tickets, as well as dates that the fishing trip started and ended. All fish legally retained in the commercial salmon troll fishery, whether for sale or retained for **personal use** (condition code 95) **must be recorded on a fish ticket**. Coho salmon may not be retained until June 15, unless an earlier date is announced in a future news release. That date is one of several pending regulation changes adopted at the 2012 Board of Fisheries meeting.

NEW REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

During the Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting held in Ketchikan from February 24–March 4, new regulations were adopted that will affect the management of the 2012 spring troll fisheries. *These new regulations may not take effect until sometime in June. The department will issue a News Release announcing when the new regulations go into effect.*

GROUND FISH BYCATCH

Fishermen are reminded that the season for lingcod bycatch opens in the salmon troll fishery on May 16. The lingcod season will remain open through November 30, or until lingcod area allocations are taken, whichever occurs first. All lingcod retained must measure at least 27 inches from tip of snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Salmon trollers may not retain lingcod in the waters of Sitka Sound as defined in 5 AAC 28.150 (a). For additional information on groundfish bycatch in the salmon troll fishery, refer to the department news release issued on April 23 or contact the groundfish staff in Sitka at 907-747-6688.

The **2012 Spring Troll Management Plan, which includes maps** of the spring areas, is available at all regional ADF&G offices and is on the troll fishery website at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans

2012 Spring and Directed Troll Preliminary Chinook Harvest and Effort				
Spring Troll Area	<i>Current Week (sw19)</i>		<i>Cumulative</i>	
	Landings	Harvest	Landings	Harvest
Ketchikan (101-29)	*	*	7	25
Sumner Strait (105-41)			7	24
Steamer Point (106-30)			*	*
Snow Pass (106-41)			*	*
District 8 (108-41)	10	35	10	35
Little Port Walter (109-10)			3	98
Tebenkof Bay (109-62)	*	*	*	*
Frederick Sound (110-31)			*	*
District 11 (111-31, -40)	*	*	*	*
Chatham Strait (112-12)	*	*	9	78
Redoubt Bay (113-30)	5	10	22	92
Sitka Sound (113-41)	3	3	11	28
Salisbury Sound (113-62)	3	6	3	6
South Passage (114-23)			*	*
Homeshore (114-25)			*	*
Point Sophia (114-27)			*	*
Port Althorp (114-50)			3	20
Totals for Region	26	70	84	451
*Data is confidential when harvest for fewer than 3 permits is reported				

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is 1S1012.

The troll fishery website can be found at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon>.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983		747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Troll Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765			